

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8, 10-18, and 20-25 are pending. Claims 9 and 19 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 17, and 21 are amended, and claims 23-25 are added. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-11294 in view of Nagai (U.S.4,524,853);

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-16, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-11294 in view of Nagai and further in view of Tsuchida (U.S. 5,794,330); and

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20, and 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-11294 in view of Nagai.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including *inter alia*

wherein the nose portion includes a lower edge that is integrally joined to the longer side portion at a position below a center of the circular hole.

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including *inter alia*

wherein the nose piece projects from the longer side portion of the cam holder along a line extending in a height direction of the cam holder.

Further, independent claim 21 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including *inter alia*

the nose portion being triangular-shaped in side view, having a lower edge projecting orthogonally from a middle portion of the longer side portion, and having an upper surface on which the oil feed path is formed, the upper surface inclined downward from a top of the cam holder and meeting the lower edge at a rear end of the nose portion.

Support for the novel combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 1, 11, and 21 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 5 and 12

By contrast, as can be seen in JP 62-11294 FIGS. 3 and 4, this document merely discloses an oil feeding guide bolted to the top of the cam holder.

In addition, the Nagai document merely discloses a clutch brake arrangement having a cam plate 310 with a circumferential edge 301h that is bent. Moreover, the device of this document is not analogous to the present invention.

Further, Tsuchida was combined with JP 62-11294 and Nagai. However, since Tsuchida merely discloses “the oil flow circuit into the cam holder”, Tsuchida cannot make up for the deficiencies of JP 62-11294 and Nagai to reject any of independent claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 11, and 21 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP 62-11294, Nagai, and Tsuchida, at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 7, and 17 have been amended, and dependent claims 23-25 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

For example, claims 23-25 recite *inter alia*

wherein the nose portion projecting from the cam holder is disposed outside in a lateral direction with respect to a position of the valve.

Support for the above subject matter can be seen in FIG. 2, which clearly shows nose portions 35R and 35L are disposed outside laterally with respect to the valves 10.

By contrast, as can be seen from FIG. 6 of JP 52-11294, this document shows element 48 between valves 23. As a result, when the vehicle of JP 62-11294 is inclined to the side, oil merely drops on one of the two valves.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto. All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

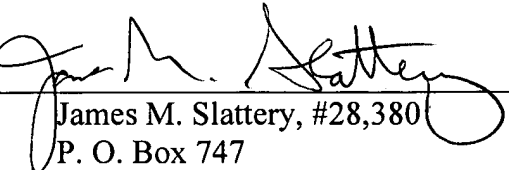
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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